

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SPC-03 PM-07 MC-02 AID-20 L-03

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 DRC-01

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R 211158Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0837

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2961

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR LARGER STEEL SCRAP ALLOCATION FOR THAILAND

REF: A. STATE 234040

B. BANGKOK 950

1. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, HAS AGAIN APPEALED TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING LARGER ALLOCATION OF STEEL SCRAP FROM CURRENT LEVEL OF 14,000 TONS VERSUS IMPORTS TOTALLING 280,654 METRIC TONS IN 1972. CONTENTED URGENT NEED EXISTS FOR QUOTA 70,000 SHORT TONS.

2. OFFICIAL WENT ON TO STATE THAT THAI NEEDS ARE SO SMALL IN RELATION TO NORMAL US EXPORTS THAT LARGER QUOTA FOR THAILAND SHOULD NOT CREATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY FOR US. SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT GOVERNMENT OF PHILIPPINES HAD BEEN ALLOCATED 12,000 ADDITIONAL TONS FROM USDOC ADMINISTERED "CONTINGENCY RESERVE" DESPITE HAVING A MUCH LARGER QUOTA THAN THAILAND.

3. OBJECTIONS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED TO RULE OF PAST PERFORMANCE BEING APPLIED BY USG TO DETERMINE COUNTRY QUOTA. SAID THAT IN CASE OF THAILAND THE USE OF A THREE YEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVERAGE PRODUCED A VERY SMALL ANNUAL AVERAGE FIGURE

BECAUSE THE THAI INDUSTRY IS SO NEW IT WAS JUST STARTING TO FUNCTION THREE YEARS AGO. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY SAID THAT A TWO YEAR AVERAGE WOULD BE MORE JUST FOR THAILAND.

4. SAME OFFICIAL ALSO ASKED IF LICENSES FOR THAI QUOTA COULD NOT BE ISSUED IN LARE ENOUGH QUANTITIES TO FILL ONE SHIP AT A TIME RATHER THAN IN THE SMALL LOTS AS AT PRESENT. STATED THAT LATTER PRACTICE REQUIRES WASTEFUL AND EXPENSIVE SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES RTG REQUEST FOR LARGER QUOTA HAS MERIT, PARTICULARLY IF REPORT TRUE THAT PHILPPINES RECEIVED ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION AS STATED ABOVE. VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THAIS WILL ASK DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH WHILE IN BANGKOK ABOUT USG ASSISTANCE TO HELP THAILAND RECEIVE LARGER STEEL SCRAP QUOTA. RTG OFFICIALS HAVE MADE SEVERAL RECENT REQUESTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING SCARCE SUPPLIES, BUT SO FAR AMBASSADOR NOT ABLE TO REPORT US RESPONSIVENESS ON ANY.

ACTION REQUESTED: REPLY REQUESTED ASAP, INCLUDING ANSWER TO INQUIRY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT LICENSE AUTHORIZATIONS IN LARGER LOTS THAN AT PRESENT.
KINTNER

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